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we disappointed in this respect. Notwithstanding the worth of the service which he has performed, and of the new materials which he has gathered in the volume before us, we cannot but regret that a more dispassionate writer is not our guide along the course of investigation through which Mr. Dixon leads the reader. He has too often drawn a hasty conclusion, or glossed over some doubtful action, or ignored some disreputable proceeding, or confounded essential distinctions, to permit us to regard him as altogether trustworthy.

In some other qualities of lesser importance, Mr. Dixon's volume is also open to criticism. It is fragmentary in form, and, instead of presenting an artistic portrait of the Great Chancellor, it is little more than an ill-compacted collection of materials, from which another hand must select the really characteristic portions. The style, too, is at once flippant and ungraceful, aiming at the praise of smartness at the expense of dignity and elegance. Of his predecessors in delineating the life and character of Bacon, Mr. Dixon writes very contemptuously. "The lie against nature in the name of Francis Bacon," he says, "broke into high literary force with Pope. Before his day the scandal had only oozed in the slime of Welden, Chamberlain, and D'Ewes." Again: "Nature never yet made such a man as Macaulay paints." And finally: "Of all the sins against Francis Bacon, that of Lord Campbell is the last and worst." It is after this manner that Mr. Dixon thinks it courteous to write of men who have honestly formed a different estimate of Bacon's personal character from that which he entertains. Nevertheless, he has done much to justify a better opinion of Bacon's conduct than has been almost uniformly received; and though he has not given us a full and minute biography, no one will be competent to take the measure of Bacon's character who is not familiar with Mr. Dixon's pages. Bacon's fame will long owe much to the labors of his latest admirer, even though those labors are not altogether praiseworthy.

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12. — *Poems, Sacred and Secular.* By the REV. WILLIAM CROSWELL, D.D. Edited, with a Memoir, by A. CLEVELAND COXE. Boston: Ticknor and Fields. 1861. 16mo. pp. 284.

THIS extremely neat and almost dainty little volume, in its whole form and fashion, suits the character of its contents. They are strictly "occasional pieces," and the most of them are such as might properly be called "Fugitive Poetry," were there not in all, or nearly all of them, some touches of a finer spirit, which must redeem them, for a while at least, from oblivion. They are all very brief, suggested by a

great variety of occasions, and showing in no instance marks of elaboration, or wilful poetizing. They are occasional, in the better sense of being true, in their whole tone and character, and form even, to the event, or thought, or sentiment, which gave birth to them. They have, therefore, what is not too common in our day, an air of genuineness and reality. They express what their author really felt, and were so written because that mode of expression was the truest setting forth of what he felt. They seem natural, because they were in fact spontaneous. This is one secret of their power over the minds of those whose privilege it was to be admitted to a place in the companionship and affections of Dr. Croswell, — himself a man of rare excellence of character, and of no less rare modesty ; and it may suggest a reason also, why, though the sentiment is always pure and worthy, and the language choice and fit, these poems may not attain any very wide or rapid popularity. They will, no doubt, be cherished by that not too large band of kindred spirits, who, while not undervaluing a brilliant imagination, or the graces of fancy, do yet more fondly take to their hearts, and retain in reverent memory, the true and simple expressions of devout feeling and earnest affection. Those must share in the *churchly* temper of the author, also, who can fully enter into the meaning, and enjoy the peculiar fragrance, of these poems. The general reader will value them more as tokens of what their writer might have done. They certainly indicate a capacity for much higher efforts than the volume anywhere contains, beautiful as some of the pieces are ; and we feel, while reading them, that Dr. Croswell's singular reticence of character has defrauded the world of much poetry of no mean worth.

Dr. Coxe has prefixed to the volume a sketch of the life and character of Dr. Croswell, very gracefully written, and abounding in genial and appreciative criticism. A more fit editor could hardly have been found, — himself a poet of no slight ability, and, by all the sympathies of character and office, enabled to discern in his friend those qualities of mind and heart, which, if they hindered his devotion to poetry, made him something of a higher order than a poet.

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13. — *Discourse on the Life and Character of the Hon. Littleton Waller Tazewell, delivered in the Freemason Street Baptist Church, before the Bar of Norfolk, Virginia, and the Citizens generally, on the 29th day of June, 1860.* By HUGH BLAIR GRIGSBY, LL. D. Norfolk : J. D. Ghiselin, Jr. 1860. 8vo. pp. 123.

MR. TAZEWELL was one of the most conspicuous men of Virginia in his day, and this volume by Mr. Grigsby is a fit memorial of his